Asia Pacific Relation Conference organised by ICWA

2517. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Council of World Affairs had organized Asia Pacific Relation Conference in New Delhi in 1997 to commemorate the completion of 50 years of Historic Asian Relations Conference 1947 organised by Shri Jawaharlal Nehru;

(b) the number of foreign and Indian delegates that attended the Conference from Asian and other countries;

(c) the amount spent by Government to organize this Conference; and

(d) what were the recommendations of the Conference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) organized the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the first Asian Relations Conference during 02-05 April, 1997.

(b) The Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the First Asian Relations Conference was attended by 95 (ninety five only) delegates of which 57 (fifty seven) were from India and 38 (thirty eight) foreign delegates which included Delhi based members of Diplomatic Missions and International Organisations.

(c) As per the 1997-1998 accounts of the Indian Council of World Affairs, there was no expenditure on the part of the Government.

(d) As per the report of the event, the delegates at the end of their deliberations *'felt that unless there is political and social understanding, economic cooperation is difficult to achieve and, for the attainment of objectives of freedom, equality and justice a new international system characterized by an absence of want, fear and all forms of intolerance and based on peace, justice, equality and respect of freedom of all is essential'.*

India's stand on help to Tsunami victims

2518. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Special Meeting of Leaders of ASEAN convened in Jakarta

on January 6, 2005 in the aftermath of Tsunami Disaster, was addressed by him to explain India's position about the world aid offered for helping the Tsunami victims and the states concerned;

(b) if so, the details of India's stand as presented at the said summit; and

(c) the response of the ASEAN thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It was stated that we deeply appreciate the offers of help received from several countries and that it was our evaluation that we could deal with the immediate challenges in the aftermath of the disaster with our own resources. It was also indicated that offers of assistance would be considered, if the need arose, for later phases of rehabilitation and reconstruction.

(c) The leaders of ASEAN and other countries, as well as Heads of regional and international organizations, present in the meeting appreciated the position taken by India as well as the assistance rendered by it to the affected countries in the region.

Handover of Jinnah House

2519. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India had pledged to handover the Jinnah House in Mumbai to Pakistan for its consular offices;

(b) whether India, as a part of the on-going confidence building measures, has set a dead-line to redeem its pledge; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Charges levied for the despatch

2520. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN:Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the charges levied at the embassy level for the dispatch of the